

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6 under the header entitled "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" and substitute therefore the following new paragraph:

(B1)
This application is a continuation of US Patent Application Serial No. 09/248,716, filed February 10, 1999, which claims the benefit of US Provisional Application Serial No. 60/074,294, filed February 11, 1998, which applications are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

Please delete the header on page 1, line 9 entitled "STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT."

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10 that is immediately below the header entitled "STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT."

In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a marked up paragraph illustrating the changes introduced by the foregoing amendment(s) to the specification is provided as Appendix A.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-46 without prejudice of or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein.

(B2)
Please add new claims 47 and 48 as follows:

47. (New) A method for obtaining an immunomodulatory polynucleotide that has an optimized modulatory effect on an immune response as compared to the response prior to optimization, or encodes a polypeptide that has an optimized modulatory effect on an immune response as compared to the response prior to optimization, the method comprising:
a) creating a library of recombinant polynucleotides; and